

REMARKS

Claims 5, 22-27 and 29-33 are pending in the present application. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 29-33. The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serra et al. (US 5536902) in view of Suzuki et al. (US 6150598). Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

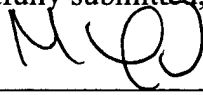
Suzuki has a U.S. filing date that is after the filing date of the Japanese application from which the present application claims priority. Suzuki was filed on September 29, 1998 while the Japanese application was filed on September 1, 1998. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. See MPEP 2136.03(I). In support of his request, Applicant herewith submits an English translation of a certified copy of the Japanese application along with the requisite statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a)(4).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner feels that it would advance the prosecution of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (213) 892-5630.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032009400. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: October 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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